

A Grand Old Tennessean.

From The Chattanooga Times.

A noble old Tennessean lives over in the middle division of the State, just outside the beautiful little city of Fayetteville, in the County of Lincoln. He is the Hon. John M. Bright, who is now in the ninety-fifth year of his age. Few men live out so long a span, and fewer still live lives so beautiful as has been that of this patriarch.

He was born in 1816 and has been closely identified with the great men of Tennessee for nearly a century. He has served his people in many political capacities. For ten years he was a member of Congress, and left public life only because his home associations were more pleasing to him. He entered the Confederate Army and became a Brigadier General.

When Gen. Jackson was elected the first time to the Presidency Gen. Bright was already a voter and a Jackson voter.

He was 29 years of age when James K. Polk entered the White House, and was nearly 50 when Andrew Johnson became President. He was in the prime of his maturity when Clay and Calhoun, Webster and Benton, John Randolph of Roanoke, Felix Grundy and others trod the political boards of the Nation with commanding steps. He was nearly 60 when Charles Sumner died. Ninety-four years make a long life span, and with him it takes in every President save three that this Republic has known.

Gen. Bright is one of the most accomplished men who ever lived in the State. He has read the classics of all ages, and his speeches read as productions from Macaulay. In his life he has been simple and tender, loving all men and perhaps in all his life without an enemy. In his age he is in the home that has sheltered him through so many decades, keeping up with the times, a student still, enjoying the blessings that God has put about his declining years to give him happiness and make him beloved.

The New York Times

Published: June 15, 1910

Copyright © The New York Times